









their respective base claims. Thus, the required burden to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness over claims 1, 2, 9-11 and 18-22 has not been met. Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal and reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 3-8 and 12-17 “are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by” Friedman and Masterson in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,725,828 to Cowlshaw. (Detailed Action, page 3, item 3.) Applicants respectfully note that combining Friedman, Masterson, and Cowlshaw is an improper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicants request that the present Office Action be withdrawn and a new Office Action be issued which properly states the grounds for rejection of claims 3-8 and 12-17. However, Applicants are presenting the following response as if claims 3-8 and 12-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Friedman, Masterson and Cowlshaw.

The Examiner acknowledges that the combination of Friedman and Masterson fails to disclose the tone number of the G component after color reduction is from about two to about 20 times the tone number of the B component, and that R:G:B=2:4:1 or R:G:B=16:32:8 as respectively recited in claims 3-8 and 12-17. The Examiner contends that Cowlshaw discloses such ratios and that it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined Friedman, Masterson and Cowlshaw to achieve the present inventions of claims 2-8 and 12-17.

Claims 3, 5 and 7 depend from claim 1. Claims 4, 6 and 8 depend from claim 2. Claims 12, 14 and 16 depend from claim 10. Claims 13, 15 and 17 depend from claim 11.



If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By

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Fig. 1

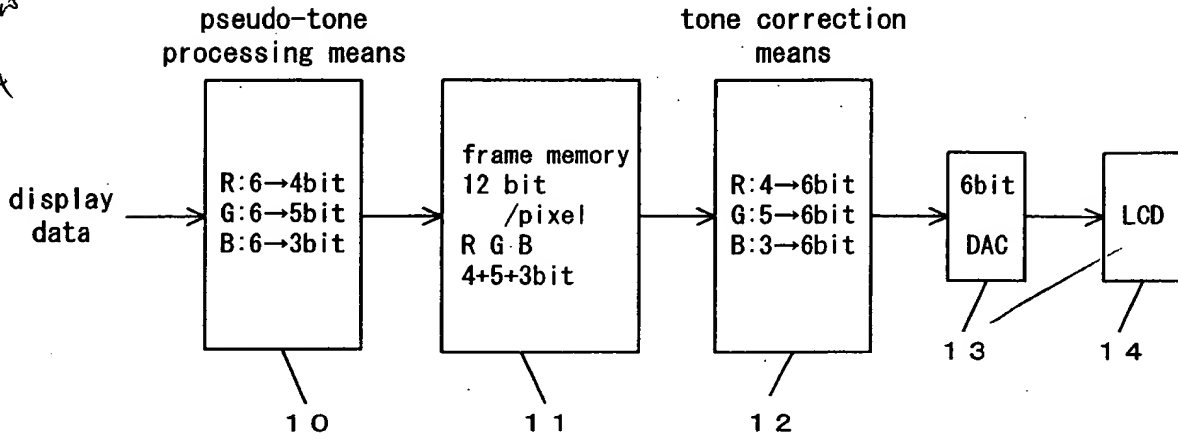


Fig. 2

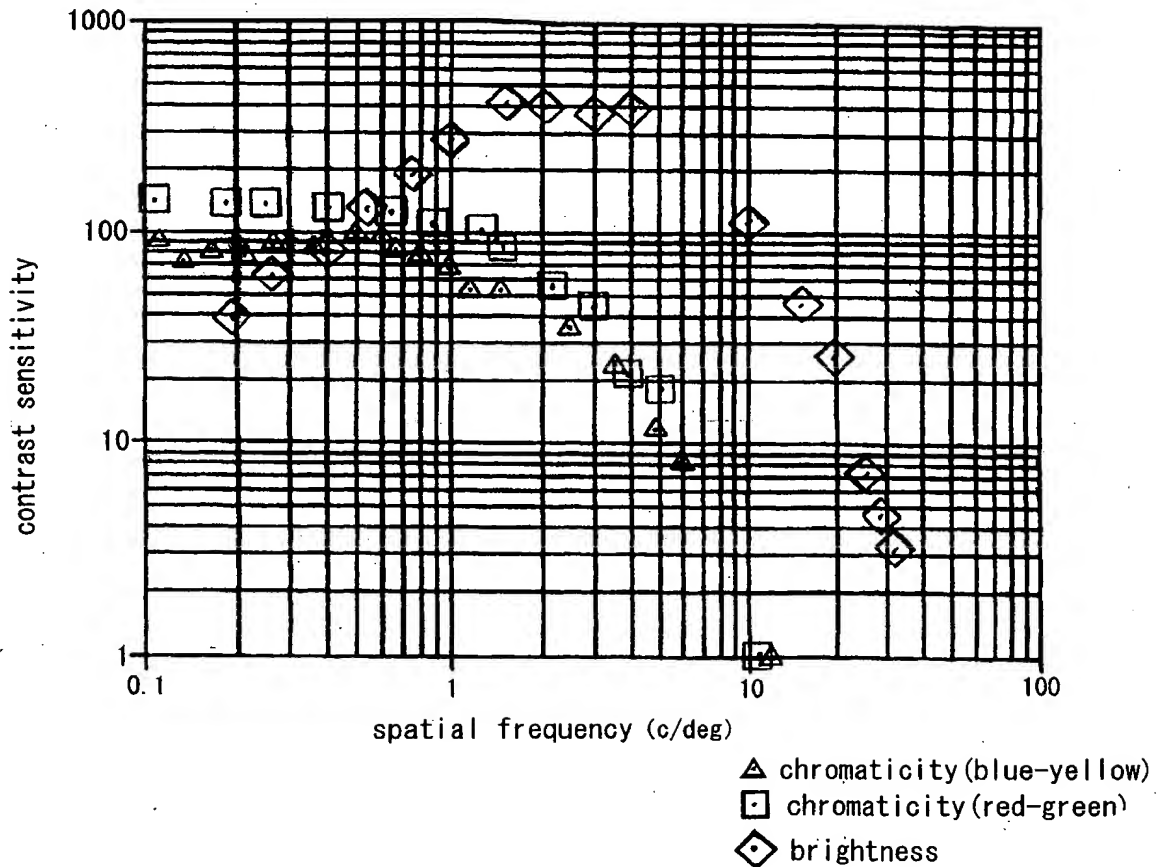






Fig. 5

